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Halloween Haunts Is A Family Favorite October 16, 17 & 18

Looking for a Halloween event you can bring the whole family to? Wehr's 26th edition of Halloween Haunts has something for all ages. Enjoy a magic show, a Halloween carnival and a walk along a Jack-O-Lantern lit trail into the Enchanted Forest to meet kooky characters that teach about nature's misunderstood critters. The walk is just spooky enough to keep kids enthralled and our humor and special effects make the grown-ups smile. Don't miss this evening of entertainment and education!

Advance Tickets On Sale Now!

\$10 per person

\$7 Milwaukee County resident or Friends Of Wehr members

Tickets are for a specific hike time, starting between 6:30 to 8:30 pm

This event is sure to be a sell-out, so call soon!

See the Nature Discovery for Families Page for Details



Come Savor the Flavors of Fall Saturday November 15 5-7:30 pm

Come savor the wonderful flavors of fall by sampling Wisconsin cheeses and tasting three different stews made from local products. Bring your friends and enjoy a great evening of food and conversation. Get lucky at the 50/50 raffle and do a little early holiday shopping at the silent auction. All proceeds go towards Wehr's Accessibility Project at the Center.

\$20/person (includes one beverage of your choice – additional tokens available for purchase)

Reservations appreciated.

Call (414) 425-8550 to make a reservation.

Saturday, December 6, 4-5:30 pm

Want to give unique, original gifts this holiday season that have a light ecological footprint? Skip the mall and learn to Do It Yourself! This hands-on workshop features six one-of-a-kind creations including Herb Infused Olive Oil, Sugar Body Scrub, and Flavored Hot Cocoa Mix.

\$25 per person; \$20 for Friends of Wehr members

Fee includes all materials for your choice of 3 gifts as well as light snacks and beverages

Register By Friday, December 5

WE ARE MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS



Center News

We Love Intern Season

Summer is especially busy at Wehr Nature Center. Luckily it is also internship season. This year's interns provided valuable education and land management services and brightened the days for staff and visitors alike.

Michael Campagnola remembers visiting Wehr Nature Center as a kid. When he was given the opportunity to work for a local community organization while studying environmental health and water quality technology at MATC last year, he was eager to work with Wehr. After receiving his associate degree in the spring, Michael was hired as the Land Management Intern for the summer. He was a great leader for the volunteers, and really enjoyed being able to experience nature on such a close level, especially the deer of Whitnall Park.

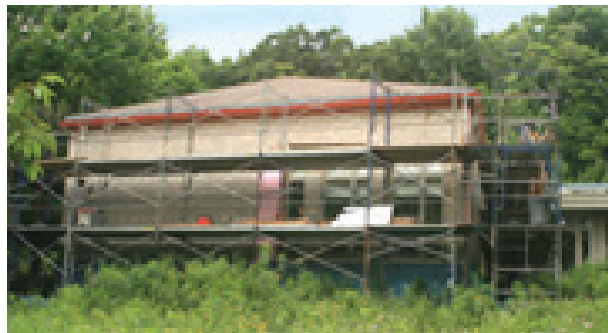
Education Interns Angela Matel and Tara Grode were crowd favorites with the summer campers and field trip participants. They provided a contagious enthusiasm for nature even on the hottest and buggiest days of the year.

Angela Matel is a youth programs and camp management major and environmental education and communications minor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She enjoyed working in the animal room and had a special affinity for Fancy the Corn Snake. As the season wound down Angela noted "this summer showed us what we will be doing for our careers and really provided us with perspective and purpose."

Tara Grode graduated this spring from Beloit College with a degree in biology and a minor in music. She was especially excited about the opportunity to develop new programs for Nature In The Parks and Fireside Fridays this summer. Always eager to pitch in, Tara was often found cutting, pasting, and laminating program materials.



Thank you Angela, Michael, and Tara for an outstanding summer.



Gardner Room Extreme Makeover

It's done! On July 8 work began on the re-siding of the Gardner Room. What was left of the old siding was torn off the middle of July and the new Gardner Room windows were installed on July 21st. The gutters had to be rebuilt and the foam installation sprayed on before the actual siding was installed. When the Gardner Room exterior was finished work began on the fascia and soffits around the rest of the building. The fascia is the same cement board siding as the Gardner Room so the woodpeckers won't be tempted to rebuild nest holes!

The construction start had a few minor wildlife glitches. Everyone worked together so construction could move forward with little impact to the wildlife. The bees that are normally by the viewing area outside the Gardner Room were moved for the summer. We decided that our bees would be happier away from the construction chaos and debris. They spent the summer just off the trail below the Visitor Center. They will be moved back in fall when our bee keepers decide the time is right. Construction workers left the corner where the bluebirds were nesting until the babies fledged.

All that remains is painting the wood siding on the original building which we hope will be completed in the summer of 2015. It has been a long process but well worth the wait to get it done right. Thank you to everyone for their patience and support through the process.

Help Pave The Way To An Accessible Amphitheater

Now that repairs to the main building are complete, it is time to tackle upgrading the Amphitheater. The new design for the amphitheater will make it more accessible by expanding the level area at the back and adding a special seating area. Drainage will be improved by using permeable pavers (bricks) to replace all of the asphalt. New benches will replace the old, rotting split log benches. We are in the process of writing grants and so far over \$12,000.00 has been raised. With enough grant and community support we hope to begin construction in late 2015 after Halloween Haunts.

You can help by buying a brick for \$50 or \$100. Engraved bricks will be placed in front of the stage. The bricks are 5"x10" and 10"x10". Bricks may be purchased on the [FOW website](#) or at the Center. Benches will be available for purchase in 2015. Watch the Friends website for details. Thanks for helping us keep moving forward.



Friends Of Wehr

Thank You!

Your contributions to the Friends of Wehr are appreciated and always used with careful consideration.

DONATIONS

Waukesha Community Foundation/Waterstone Bank Fund
Katherine Smith
Eric Eberhardy
GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Oak Creek High School Environmental Club
US Bank
Paul and Patricia Brings
Mary MacLaren and Pat Adas
Wehr Nature Center Camera Club
Mihailo Knezic
S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc.
Kohl's Cares
Safeway Pest Management

MEMORIALS/DONATIONS

In Memory of Joanna McElrone
Kevin McElrone
In Memory of Rose and Richard Skonecki
Dianne Fennig
In Honor of Karen Kerans
Diane Lembck
Carol Block
Marilyn Runge
Ron Reberneck
Paula Zamiatowski
Howard Aprill
Karen Szews
In Memory of Marion and Joseph Schmitz
Joseph Schmitz
In Memory of Harry and Evelyn Kubacki
Gary Kubacki

In Memory of Frank and Gertie Martino
Frank J. Martino
In Honor of Fr. Jerry Hudziak
St. James Catholic Church,
Menomonee Falls
In Honor of Peter Gilbertson
Gerald Gilbertson
In Honor of Brad Mysliwski
Cheryl Mysliwski

NEW WINDOWS

Jean Hancock
Rockwell Automation

ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

Patricia Casillo
We Energies Foundation
Macy's
In Memory of Mary Kay Krebs
Vince and Ruth DiBella
In Memory of Mary Kay Koebert
Vincent and Ruth Dibella
Bob and Lois Huebner
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Connie Nagel
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Bob and Audrey Delebrea
Joe and Joan Behnke

Robert and Marlene Urch
Rodney Glover and Cindy Vobach
In Memory of Linda Luebke
Rose Gatto

Engraved Paver

Wehr Nature Center Staff Reunion
Alice Ambrowiak
Harold Haase

Bench

In Memory of Carol Bull
Marilyn Runge
Dean and Mary Rockstad
Estate of Carol Bull

IN-KIND DONATION

Joy Banyas
Richard Reinbold
Rich Sterle
Marilyn Runge
West Allis Cheese

Thank you to Jackie Crivello's
Wild Birds Unlimited
for their continuing support
in keeping our feeders full and
our birds happy.
Please support their
business located at
4454 S. 108th St.
Greenfield.



2nd Annual FOW Summer Solstice Social a Spectacular Success

Gloomy weather couldn't keep over 40 guests from an evening of endless homemade tapas, desserts, honey, and mead. The rain cleared just in time to honor the Solstice traditions by sprinkling flower petals in Mallard Lake and tossing rosemary and thyme in the fire at sunset. An exciting silent auction raised over \$1000 toward Wehr's Accessibility Project. Thank you! Thanks go out to the many donors, cooks/bakers, staff, interns, volunteers and the Friends Board. Special thanks to Friends Program Committee Chair- Barb Nellen.





Nature Volunteer News

Upcoming Opportunities for Current Volunteers

Dotty's Crafters: Wednesdays, October 1, November 5, December 3; 1-3pm

B Busting : October 9 & 23, 9-11 am; October 28, 1:30-3:30 pm

Help control Wehr's Oriental Bittersweet and Buckthorn populations in an Oak Woodland restoration area and around the lake.

Homemade Holidays December 6, shifts between 10 am and 4 pm

Volunteers are needed to help children make crafts and decorate cookies. Shifts between 10 am and 4 pm.

Bakers Wanted! We need donations of homemade sugar cookies for children to decorate. Bake as many as you like and deliver by Friday, December 5. Please call Wehr to sign-up as a volunteer or a baker.

Halloween Haunts Needs Your Help!

It takes hundreds of volunteers to make Halloween Haunts happen. Please contact Bev Bryant at beverly.bryant@milwaukeecountywi.gov if you or your group can help out.

Decorating: Sunday, October 12, 4-6 pm

We need people to hang crepe paper, blow up balloons, and decorate the walls with creepy cut-outs.

Pumpkin Carving: Wednesday, October 15, 9 am to 3 pm

Join the happy crew that creates the spectacular Jack-o-lanterns that line the Enchanted Forest Trail. No experience necessary.

Dress Rehearsal: Monday, October 13,
6 pm for Characters; 6:30 pm for Guides

Volunteers portraying characters or working as an Enchanted Forest guides must attend this rehearsal.

Event Help: Evenings of Thursday, Friday and Saturday,
Oct. 16, 17 & 18; shift times vary

Serve popcorn, help with games and crafts, lead walks, or haul and light Jack-o-lanterns.



Ongoing Opportunities

Phenology, Wheel n' Chip, Critter Care, Teach School Groups, Trail Patrol
To sign up to help, call
414-425-8550.

New volunteers are always welcome!

Contact Mary Gaub today at
mary.gaub@ces.uwex.edu
and make an appointment.



Volunteer Recognition Dinner Friday, November 7, 6-9pm



Help us commemorate "40 Years of Volunteers". The grateful staff takes this opportunity to honor and thank all of the amazing volunteers that make Wehr Nature Center possible. Join us for a potluck dinner and stay for a program that remembers the past, celebrates the present, and looks forward to the future of volunteering at Wehr. Space is limited, so please RSVP and let us know what dish you're bringing.

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Hike for Health 10:30 am Dotty's Crafters 1-3 pm	2	3	4 Into the Wild 9 am-4 pm
5 Noon-5 pm	6 Little Wonders Two Year-Olds 9:30-10:30 am Three Year-Olds 11 am-Noon	7 Wehr Astronomical Society "High Noon in the Universe" by Dawn Erb, UWM Physics Dept. 7 pm	8 Hike for Health 10:30 am	9 B' Busting 9-11 am	10	11 Wehr Camera Club 9-11 am Wild Ones 1:30-3:30 pm Night Sky Observing with WAS 8-10 pm
12 Halloween Haunts Decorating 4-6 pm	13 Halloween Haunts Rehearsal 6-8 pm	14	15 Hike for Health 10:30 am Halloween Haunts Pumpkin Carving 9 am-3 pm	16 Wehr Opens at Noon Halloween Haunts 6:30-8:30 pm	17 Wehr Opens at Noon Halloween Haunts 6:30-8:30 pm	18 Wehr Opens at Noon Halloween Haunts 6:30-8:30 pm
19	20	21	22 Hike for Health 10:30 am Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society "Hummingbirds" by Emily & Larry Schenunemann 7 pm	23 B' Busting 9-11 am	24	25 Camera Club 9-11 am
26 NatureNauts 1-2 pm	27 NatureNauts 9:30-10:30 am	28 B' Busting 1:30-3:30 pm	29 Hike for Health 10:30 am	30	31	

For more information call 414-425-8550
All programs & events subject to change.
Parking fees may apply.

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Hike for Health 10:30 am Dotty's Crafters 1-3 pm	6	7 Wehr Nature Center Opens at Noon Volunteer Recognition Dinner 6-9 pm	8 Camera Club 9-11 am Wild Ones 1:30-3:30 pm
9 NatureNauts 1-2 pm	10 NatureNauts 9:30-10:30 am	11 Wehr Astronomical Society - Speaker Kevin Bert of the Northern Cross Science Foundation 7 pm	12 Hike for Health 10:30 am	13	14	15 Flavors of Fall Fundraiser 5-7:30 pm
16	17 Little Wonders 2 yr olds 9:30-10:30 am 3 yr olds 11 am-12 pm	18	19 Hike for Health 10:30 am Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society "Banding Hummingbirds In Wisconsin" by Mickey O'Connor of the Milwaukee County Zoo 7 pm	20	21	22 Whitetails 101 2:30-4:30 pm
23	24	25	26 Wehr Nature Center Closes at Noon	27 Happy Thanksgiving WNC is Closed 	28 WNC is Closed	29 Snowflake Sale Begins 8:30 am-4 pm 
30	For more information call 414-425-8550 All programs & events subject to change. Parking fees may apply.					

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3 Dotty's Crafters 1-3 pm	4	5	6 Homenade Holidays 11 am-3 pm 4-5:30 pm
7	8 Little Wonders Two Year-Olds 9:30-10:30 am Three Year-Olds 11am-Noon	9	10	11	12 Owl Prowl for Adults 7-9 pm	13 Wehr Camera Club 9-11 am Wild Ones 1:30-3:30 pm Owl Prowl for Families 6:30-8:30 pm
14 NatureNauts 1-2 pm	15 NatureNauts 9:30-10:30 am	16	17	18	19	20 Christmas Bird Count 9 am -4 pm
21	22	23	24 	25 Merry Christmas! Wehr is Closed.	26	27 Wehr Open Noon - 4 pm
28 Wehr Open Noon - 4 pm	29 Wehr Open Noon - 4 pm	30 Wehr Open Noon - 4 pm	31 Wehr Open Noon - 4 pm	January 1, 2015 Happy New Year Wehr is Closed		
For more information call 414-425-8550 All programs & events subject to change. Parking fees may apply.						



Nature Discovery For Children

Little Wonders

A program for 2 and 3 year olds to share with their favorite adult

9:30-10:30 am for Two Year Olds 11 am-Noon for Three Year Olds

Little Pumpkins Monday, October 6

Bring your little pumpkin out to learn about these enchanting and edible fruits. We will read *Pumpkin, Pumpkin* by Jeanne Titherington and learn how pumpkins grow. Tots will pick their own tiny pumpkin from our pumpkin patch and decorate a Jack-o-lantern to take home. We will also enjoy a yummy pumpkin treat.

Super Senses Monday, November 17

Toddlers will explore those super nature discovery tools we call "Our Senses" at this month's program. The children will listen to *My Five Senses* by Aliki and then have time to practice using each of their senses through art and science activities. They will even try out their taste buds as we taste foods that are salty, sweet, and sour at snack time.

Woodland Holiday Monday, December 8

Celebrate the holiday season with creatures of the forest. We will hear a holiday-themed story, make a treat for our woodland friends, and go for a short walk, weather permitting.

NatureNauts

A series of fun-filled programs for children 4-6 years old and their favorite adult.

1-2 pm for Sunday Classes 9:30-10:30 am for Monday Classes

Seed Safari Sunday, October 26 & Monday, October 27

Seeds stick, pop and fly! We'll read *Planting the Wild Garden* by Kathryn Galbraith and then Naturenauts will go on a seed safari walk to collect seeds of all sorts. We'll use our treasures to make collage art.

Little Honkers Sunday, November 9 & Monday, November 10

Why do geese fly south for the winter? It's too far to walk! Discover the secrets of Canada Geese and make a goose craft that "honks." Be prepared for a short walk in search of geese.

Bear Cubs Sunday, December 14 & Monday, December 15

NatureNauts will become bear cubs as we learn all about Black Bears. We will read *We Are Bears* by Molly Grooms, find out what bears eat for lunch and go on an imaginary (teddy) bear hunt.



L Burke

Pre-registration is required for all children's programs Deadline is the Wednesday before the program date
Fees: \$10 per child \$7 Milwaukee County residents \$5 Friends of Wehr members

FRIENDS OF WEHR NATURE STORE

Snowflake Sale

November 29 to December 30

Pick a snowflake to see if you get
10%, 15%, or 20% off on store items

Need a Gift Idea for the Nature Lovers in Your Life?

We carry . . .

- Discovery toys and books for budding young "ologists"
- Nature themed plush, jewelry, shirts, and collectibles
- Field guides, bug boxes, and other tools for exploring.

Give a Gift that gives all year: A gift Membership to the Friends of Wehr Family memberships are only \$35 and provides discounts on programs, 10% off in the Nature Store, and free parking, a year's subscription to Wehr Words and E-mail updates on upcoming events.

Shop In The Beauty Of Nature

All proceeds go to the Friends of Wehr to support the educational programs at Wehr Nature Center.

Open 8:30 am- 4 pm Daily



Nature Discovery for Adults

Into the Wild with Mark

Weekend explorations to regional natural areas of interest lead by Wehr's Natural Areas Manager Mark Verhagen.

Monches Ice Age Trail Saturday, October 4, 9 am-4 pm

We'll be hiking a portion of the Ice Age Trail near Monches. The trail winds along a beautiful babbling brook and through some nice mature fall woods. Come along for some good hiking for scenery and bird watching.

\$25 per person \$10 Friends of Wehr members; Registration is required by the Friday before the program.

Transportation is provided or on your own.



Photo: Dennis Miller

White-Tails 101 Saturday, Nov. 22, 2:30-4:30 pm

Whitnall Park is famous for its herd of "friendly" White-tailed Deer. Join deer biologist and Wehr naturalist Bev Bryant to learn more about these magnificent creatures. We will explore the basics of deer biology and behavior and learn how to interpret their many forms of communication. After an indoor presentation we will head out to some popular deer haunts to observe deer.

\$10 per person \$7 Milwaukee County residents

\$5 Friends of Wehr members

Registration is required by Friday, November 21

Owl Prowl for Adults

Friday, Dec. 12, 7-9 pm

Join a naturalist for an evening out with the owls.

An interactive program will highlight the habits and adaptations of our nocturnal neighbors. Then we will walk the woodlands of Wehr listening and looking for Great Horned and Eastern Screech Owls.

\$10 per person, \$7 Milwaukee County resident

\$5 Friends of Wehr members

Registration is required by Wednesday December 10



Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 20, 9 am-4 pm

Come and meet up with some of the most talented and persistent birders in the area to count to count birds for the longest running birdcount ever. Beginner and veteran birdwatchers are welcome!

Join us for a potluck chili lunch -

we supply the chili and you can bring a side or dessert.

Free, but pre-register by December 19.

Saturday, December 6, 4-5:30 pm

Want to give unique, original gifts this holiday season that have a light ecological footprint? Skip the mall and learn to Do It Yourself! This hands-on workshop features six one-of-a-kind creations including Herb Infused Olive Oil, Sugar Body Scrub and Flavored Hot Cocoa Mix.

\$25 per person, \$20 Friends of Wehr members

Fee includes all materials for your choice of 3 gifts as well as light snacks and beverages

Registration is required by Friday, December 5

Hike for Health

Hike along with this group that walks Wehr's trails together for camaraderie, exercise and fun.

Meet in the Visitor Center.

Every Wednesday in Oct. & Nov.-Time: 10:30 am

Does not meet in December.

No fee or registration required; \$3 parking fee in effect



Nature Discovery for Families

Sunday, October 5 Noon-5 pm

Cider Sunday is THE place to kick off the fall season. This popular event features cider press demonstrations, FREE cider tasting, live music, crafts for kids, guided nature walks and lots of yummy food. Apples from Patterson's Orchard will be for sale. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Wehr and assist the needs of Wehr Nature Center.

\$3 per person (ages 2 & under Free) Free for Friends of Wehr members

Halloween Haunts

Thursday, Friday & Saturday October 16, 17 & 18

Hikes Start Between 6:30 and 8:30 pm

Join a Night Traveler for a haunting, humorous, and informative trek through the Enchanted Forest. Meet creepy characters along the Jack-o-lantern lit trail. Refreshments, fortune telling, games, and much more greet little ghosts when they return to the Gardner Room.

\$10 per Person; non-Milwaukee Co. resident

\$7 Milwaukee Co. residents & Friends of Wehr members

Tickets can be purchased in person or over the phone with a credit card.

- Advanced ticket purchases only. No tickets will be sold at the door
- Limit of 15 tickets per person
- Tickets can be picked up at Wehr or mailed for a \$5 service fee

Tickets are non-refundable, non-exchangeable. Program runs rain or shine.

Homemade Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 6, 11 am-3 pm



Bring the kids and grandkids to Wehr to create homemade gifts from natural, recyclable and reusable objects. Children can make and take three different projects for the admission fee (additional projects are \$1.00). Stop by anytime during the Open House hours to make your works of art.

\$6 per child

\$5 Friends of Wehr members

\$1 for additional crafts

Pre-registration requested for scout groups.



Family Owl Prowl

Saturday, December 13

6:30 - 8:30 pm



Join a naturalist for an evening out with the owls. An interactive program will highlight the habits and adaptations of our nocturnal neighbors. Then we will walk the woodlands of Wehr listening and looking for Great Horned and Eastern Screech Owls.

\$10 per person

\$7 Milwaukee County resident

\$5 Friends Of Wehr members

Registration required by December 12

Astronomical Viewing

Saturday, October 11, 8-10 pm

Join members of the Wehr Astronomical Society for Nighttime Sky Viewing at Wehr Nature Center.

Look through a telescope and learn about the night sky with experts.

Cloudy skies cancel event.

No registration needed. Free and open to the public.



Community Organizations

Wehr is fortunate to host several organizations who share their passion and knowledge about the natural world with the public. For more information about these organizations and details about their programs, please visit their web-sites or call Wehr (414) 425-8550.

Wehr Camera Club is dedicated to sharing a passion for photography and nature.

Visit <http://wnccameraclub.com/calendar.html> for program information. Public programs are held the second Saturday of each month, September to June, from 9-11 am.

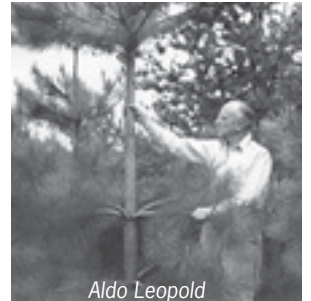
Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society that encourages environmental stewardship through education and conservation. Public programs are held the third Wednesday of each month from 7-9 pm, September to May. Visit <http://www.wimetroaudubon.org/events2013.html> for program information.

Wild Ones, Natural Landscapers Inc. supports the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities by promoting the use of native plants in landscaping. Meetings are held at WNC from 1:30-3:30 pm the second Saturday of each month from September to April. Visit www.wildones.org for program information.

Wehr Astronomical Society is a group of amateur astronomers that promote the study of astronomy. Meetings are from 7-9 pm the second Tuesday of each month, September to June. Visit <http://www.wehrastro.org> for information.

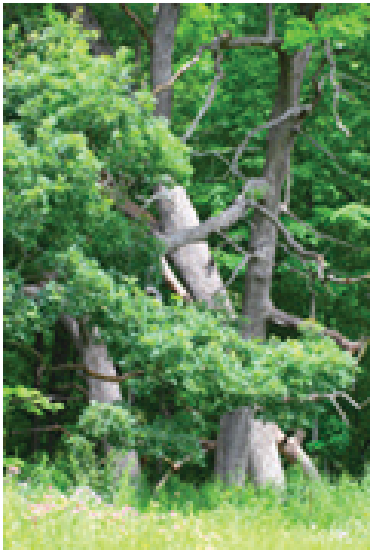
The Real Deal

I've been working with Milwaukee County Parks for about 12 years now, and to me the "Real Deal" has always been the land in the tradition of Aldo Leopold. Leopold talked about human beings as a part of nature not separated by a barrier of cement and technology. Ever since he wrote those words in his famous essay "The Land Ethic", it seems we have gone around purposely encasing ourselves in cement and using wires as our feeding tubes.



Aldo Leopold

Wehr Nature Center is a place where I get to run away from the cement people want to throw at me and stick some of my wires in the Earth. One of the greatest tragedies I see here is the death of old Oak Trees because of decades of neglect. By doing Oak Woodland restoration we're trying to address this problem. With more effort and support we can bring the Oak Woodlands back to life before it's too late.



When I first started trying to manage the invasive exotic species at Wehr I spent a lot of time slaughtering "bad" plants wholesale. Wehr has over 30 species of invasive exotic plants, many of them are some of the worst nightmares. By herbiciding, cutting, pulling, composting and mapping millions of plants I was not even putting a dent in many of these populations. I really had to come up with some other way to deal with this problem. It occurred to me taking a more holistic approach to ecological restoration might be a better way to kill more birds with one stone. Fire became the new stone.

With chainsaw and "Weed Wrench" (shrub puller) combined with fire we were able to stop killing birds with stones entirely. Our stones turned into new species popping out of the ground and formerly bare ground into

lush, diverse vegetation. We've applied this same method to the Sedge Meadow remnants here as well. Eventually, we'll have some new signage to commemorate our planting by the deck, funded in great part by Lori Otto, and the Oak Woodland restoration behind the amphitheater. When you're out hiking the trails at Wehr next summer take a look at all of the newly restored areas and feel free to stop in to ask me questions about what you see!

- Mark Verhagen, Natural Areas Management Specialist



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Whitnall's Whitetails

Whitnall Park is famous for Wehr Nature Center, Boerner Botanical Gardens, its crabapple trees, and its abundant and friendly population of White-tailed Deer. On any given evening there is a procession of folks in cars, as well as on foot, watching and photographing these magnificent creatures. Visitors often stop at Wehr and share their whitetail stories, photos and questions. Some folks have knowledge of deer behavior and biology, but most don't and this can lead to some misconceptions. Here are a few of the most persistent and dangerous misconceptions and why they are not true.

The Deer Will Starve In Winter If People Don't Feed Them No! They won't starve, and feeding them can kill them!

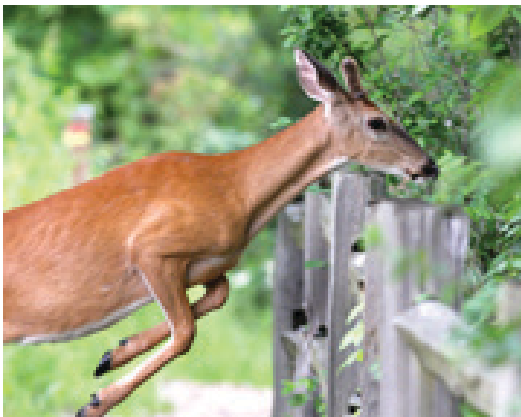


Whitetails are adapted to eat a wide variety of foods such as grass, leaves, flowers, buds, bark, nuts and yes, corn, pumpkins and any of our food crops. To digest these foods, deer have a series of four stomachs. Whitetails swallow food into their first two stomachs. Here it is formed into a "cud" which they regurgitate and chew some more. The food then passes into the 3rd and 4th stomachs which absorb water and digest it. Bacteria live within the deer's stomachs and do the essential job of making even woody material digestible.

The deer's stomachs (and their bacteria) are fine tuned to the foods they eat each season. In winter, deer lower their metabolism and primarily live off their fat reserves. They eat bark and buds in small amounts and their gut bacteria adapt to this diet. Of course, if humans put out corn, deer will come and eat it. This quick shift to a corn diet changes the pH in the deer stomach and kills off their good bacteria. Acid can build up to toxic levels from incomplete fermentation and **-the deer will die with a stomach full of corn within 72 hours!**

Baiting deer out near roadways so they are easier to see is ok No! Not only is it dangerous to deer and motorists, it is illegal.

Far too often we see that visitors have placed corn, pumpkins or other bait near the roads here in Whitnall Park, presumably to make it easy to see deer. This is a terrible idea on all levels! First, habituating deer to come out near roads will increase the chance of deer-car collisions. Second, as I mentioned above, switching a deer's diet, especially in winter, can be deadly to that animal. Most importantly, bringing deer together over a bait pile promotes the spread of infectious diseases. Whitnall Park is part of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) quarantine zone, meaning there is a higher chance that this deadly disease could enter and spread through our population. Because of this, it is illegal to place **ANY** artificial food source out where deer can reach it. This



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includes ground feeders for birds, and of course corn and pumpkins. Please help us keep our herd healthy – don't feed them and report those who do to the DNR Warden at 1-800-847-9367.

I didn't see any deer today because the population is too small They are still here, just not where you were looking today

Whitnall Park's deer population has held steady at around 80 to 120 deer for the last 15 years. This translates to roughly 16 to 24 deer per square mile, a density that allows for the regeneration of plants and protects the habitat of all species. The Whitnall Park deer control program, along with a healthy population of coyotes, has worked to keep the herd to a sustainable size.

Can you still see deer at this herd size? Absolutely! Deer move freely though the park and they will not be in the same location each time you come. Visit the park around sunrise and sunset to see the deer at their most active time of

day. Be aware that deer are much more difficult to spot in summer due to their limited movements and vegetation. Your best chance to see Bucks is in the fall during the rut and if you like to see large groups of deer, visit in the winter. Remember, whitetails are wild creatures and it **SHOULD** take some effort and persistence to see them. We never want Whitnall to turn into a petting zoo!

Love whitetails and want to learn more? Come to "Whitetails 101" at Wehr on November 22. See page 9 for details.

At Wehr Nature Center
 9701 W. College Ave.
 Franklin, WI 53132 In Whitnall Park
 Open Daily 8-4:30
 (Check for holiday hours)
wehrraturecenter@milwcnty.com

Upcoming Owl Prowls



Owl Prowl For Adults:
 January 9 & 10, 7-9 pm

Owl Prowl For Families:
 January 16 & 17, 6:30-8:30 pm

Owl Prowl For Scouts:
 January 24, 6:30-8:30 pm



**Learn more about activities and events
 throughout the Milwaukee County Parks**

Wish List

Contributions of any amount will be appreciated for

- Leaf Blower
- Hydraulic Log Splitter
- Push Lawn Mower
- Serger Sewing Machine

If you are interested in donating any of these items, or would like to contribute money towards their purchase, please contact Deb at (414) 425-8550. Your contributions are tax deductible when made to the Friends of Wehr.



LOOK FOR
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 US ON
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Membership Application: This is an annual membership from January - December
 Mail to: Friends of Wehr 9701 College Ave. Franklin, WI 53132 Make checks payable to Friends of Wehr or renew online at www.friendsofwehr.org

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY-STATE-ZIP _____
 PHONE (____) _____ EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE		Individual	Family
Regular	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>
Senior (65)	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer (50 hrs)	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>

Payment Method ☐ Cash ☐ Check# _____ (payable to Friends of Wehr) Additional Donation \$ _____
☐ Charge (Visa MC Discover AE) # _____ Expires _____ Security Code _____
 Signature _____ Staff Initials _____ Date Received _____

